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<b>Document title</b>	A project platform concept
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<b>Category</b>	CMNT
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## Background

The Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020 has recently opened the 2nd Call for Project platform applications. Project platforms support cooperation among partners of projects funded by Interreg Baltic Sea Region and other funding programmes in a certain thematic field. The main aim of project platforms is to increase impacts of Interreg Baltic Sea Region and other EU-funded projects in the area. Platforms should ensure more intensive use, better durability and transferability of projects' outcomes. The deadline for project applications is 31 January 2019.

The document contains a concept of the project platform application "Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers".

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss project objectives, identify regional policies which project can contribute to and processes which could be supported by project results.

Participants are also invited to express the will to join the project.

## Concept note

**“Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers”**

Interreg BSR Programme 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Applications on Project Platforms  
Timeline: 2 October 2018 - 31 January 2019

Activities at the sea have been taken place for centuries. However, new sea uses, such as renewable energy development, aquaculture and protection of the underwater heritage have brought to the competition for maritime space, and management of human activities at the sea has become more complex, requiring better coordination and planning. Maritime spatial planning (MSP) is a process that brings together multiple maritime users to ensure that human activities at the sea take place in an efficient, safe and sustainable way. VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region, HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and EUSBSR Action Plan provides a basis for common regional work on implementation of MSP in a coherent way and applying ecosystem based approach. This goal should be achieved by 2020/2021.

Since 2010 when the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group was established, significant progress has been achieved in building cooperation network and creating policy background for MSP in the BSR. Currently nearly all BSR countries are engaged in MSP process and are in the various stages of preparation their maritime plans.

The current regional goals and tasks for MSP are set for 2020/2021. A number of processes have already been initiated or are to be initiated to consider and set up an agenda for future macro-regional MSP cooperation. The assessment of the regional MSP framework within the Pan Baltic Scope project recently has been launched and its results will be used for the following update of the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap after 2020 (MSP Roadmap) and for adjustment of the VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Baltic Sea Region. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, including MSP commitments, will be updated by 2021. Revision process of the EUSBSR Action Plan will be carried out in 2019 indicating future tasks for thematic coordinators post 2020. The project will contribute to these policy processes, building on and utilizing the results of the current and recently completed MSP projects.

**The main objective of platform:** is to blend the outcomes of transnational MSP projects on various topics and ongoing MSP activities & processes to **increase visibility and impact** of single projects, **build up potential synergies** seeking the ways for **successful alignment of new sea-uses** and **addressing horizontal issues** in the MSP, support the **practical implementation and application** of the maritime spatial plans around the BSR after their adoption, promote esteemed **stakeholder involvement and engagement** methods, as well as consider **additional focus areas** for the regional collaboration and cooperation for future MSP cooperation agenda, and indicate possible MSP cooperation **project ideas** for the next programming period. Moreover, the Platform will encompass gained knowledge in order to ensure **know-how transition** within and outside the BSR across various sectors and governance levels.

The project platform proposal supports the successful implementation of the EU and BSR policies and strengthens the capacity of the MSP practitioners, authorities responsible for MSP, sectoral stakeholders involved in MSP and other players by:

- consolidating and amplifying projects outcomes through the synthesis [process] and applying proven technics of stakeholder involvement from projects;
- ensuring further promotion, visibility and impact of projects outcomes and gained knowledge towards the **MSP stakeholders (MSP practioners, institutions responsible for MSP, blue-economy representatives, environmentalists etc.)** at various governance levels (pan-Baltic, national or regional) within the BSR and outside;
- exchanging approaches in stakeholder involvement and engagement from the projects at various sectors and applying them in the Platform;
- identification and *know-how* exchange of available practice in MSP implementation, challenges, unforeseen “underwater stones”, potential support tools;

- capitalization of the results from various projects in order to support **MSP decision-makers (HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group)** in relation of revision processes of MSP policy framework and bringing an additional input to the future MSP agenda post 2020;

#### Main results:

- Deepened knowledge among MSP stakeholders towards successful alignment of new sea uses (such as renewable energy production, aquaculture, protection of underwater heritage) and their synergies in the MSP and application of horizontal issues - 'Multi-use' concept, "land-sea interaction", "ecosystem based approach" from the perspective of new sea uses;
- Harmonized overview of and lessons learnt from projects' approaches and methods for stakeholder involvement and engagement at pan-Baltic and national or regional level;
- Application of most successful stakeholder involvement methods from projects into Platform in order to better disseminate the Platform results and outreach to wider stakeholder fora;
- Identified support mechanisms for the implementation of the MSP in practice and *know-how* transfer from other sea-basins being more advanced in this regard;
- Identified additional focus areas for the regional collaboration and cooperation from the projects for future MSP cooperation agenda after 2020;
- Indicated possible MSP cooperation project ideas for the next programming period.

## PLATFORM STRUCTURE

### WP 1. Platform management and administration

VASAB Secretariat (lead partner)

Maritime Institute in Gdansk (PL)

Aalborg University (DK)

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SE)

HELCOM Secretariat

Ministry of Environment & Regional Development of Latvia (LV)

### WP2. Deepened knowledge and "know-how" exchange:

**Group of Activities 2.1. : Synthesis report** on outcomes of the MSP-related projects (e.g., Baltic LINes, Baltic InteGrid, BalticRIM, Baltic Blue Growth, Baltic SCOPE, Pan Baltic Scope, BONUS BASMATI, MUSES, Land-Sea-Act etc.) in correlation with ongoing MSP process in the BSR countries:

- Identifying common denominators and analyzing main conclusions, interactions and synergies gained from projects;
- Looking at how to successfully align new sea-uses, such as offshore energy development, aquaculture, protection of underwater heritage, in MSP along with traditional activities as shipping, fisheries, nature protection etc.;
- Considering horizontal issues such as 'Multi-use' concept, "land-sea interaction" and "ecosystem based approach", "cumulative impacts" etc. against these new sea-uses;
- Synthesizing main "take-away" messages for further dissemination in various MSP stakeholder networks within and outside the BSR;
- Consideration of potential future topics emerging from the projects outcomes and to be included into future MSP agenda (as additional input to the revision of MSP policy framework for the BSR after 2020);
- Proposing themes and scoping proposals for future MSP cooperation projects in the next programming period.

Synthesis report to be prepared and adjusted in close collaboration with MSP stakeholders by applying different stakeholder involvement methods tested and proven within projects and to be continued in the Platform.

**Group of Activities 2.2.** Identified **support mechanisms for the implementation of the MSP** in practice and *know-how* transfer from other sea-basins being more advanced in this regard. Nearly all BSR countries are

involved in the preparation of maritime spatial plans, but only few (e.g., Germany) has experience in practical implementation of these plans. The activity will ensure the available knowledge transfer from existing experience from the Baltic Sea and also from other sea-basins (e.g., Belgium, the Netherlands etc.), discover common challenges and unforeseen obstacles in the practice of MSP implementation, as well as identify potential support mechanisms for implementation and application of the maritime spatial plans after their adoption with regard to the EU MSP Directive and Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap. Activity will also provide an input for the Synthesis report.

### **WP 3. Strengthened stakeholder involvement and engagement**

**Group of Activities 3.1. Integrated hand-book for MSP stakeholder involvement and engagement** – it will include a harmonized overview and lessons learnt from projects and national MSP processes concerning the approaches and methods for stakeholder involvement and engagement at pan-Baltic and national or regional level. Lessons learned from the collaboration process and application of stakeholder engagement methods within the Platform will provide an additional adjustment of the Hand-book. The activity will also give an overall extraction of main takeaway messages for dissemination to the MSP planners within and outside the BSR, as well as supporting more successful implementation of H-V Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation.

**Group of Activities 3.2. Thematic multi-level and cross-sectoral workshops** in order to deepen the knowledge of and bring the capacity to the MSP stakeholders by further promotion of the projects outcomes and adjustment of Platform products (e.g., Synthesis report). Workshops will bring forward/apply the best practice and working methods of stakeholder engagement into MSP from sectoral (e.g., renewable energy development (Baltic LINes, InteGrid), aquaculture (Baltic Blue Growth), protection of UCH (BalticRIM), shipping (Baltic LINes) and horizontal perspective (ecosystem based approach (Baltic SCOPE), cumulative impacts (PanBalticScope), ‘multi-use’ concept (MUSES), land-sea interaction (Land-Sea-Act). Workshops will invite the representatives from respective sectors (national agencies, NGO`s, academia, associations etc.).

The activity will be mutually linked with the Synthesis process and Integrated hand-book for stakeholder involvement & engagement – Synthesis will provide the material for workshops where the outcomes and also lessons learnt will feed into the further elaboration of Synthesis and stakeholders hand-book.

**Group of Activities 3.3. Planning Forum** will act as practical dissemination and collaboration platform supporting ongoing national / regional MSP processes and implementation of MSP policy. The cooperation practice initiated by Baltic SCOPE and Pan Baltic Scope projects on informal collaboration among MSP practitioners within the Planning Forum should be continued further. While the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG is the official cooperation platform for considering policy proposals and implications, Planning Forum will be a fora where more detailed and in-depth discussions, practical task-forces and exchange of practices and experiences on MSP, as well as further promotion of the projects results and Platform products among MSP practitioners will take place. It will be complementing the current cooperation within HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group with practical, task-oriented and informal working methods which cannot otherwise be organized at the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meetings itself, thereby building an efficient and more complete and strengthened MSP network.

The Platform will provide the opportunity to continue collaboration among practitioners and add new topics to future MSP agenda – such as an alignment of new sea-uses into MSP, ‘multi-use’ concept, support mechanisms for implementation and application of MSP etc. It will also further promote and disseminate the single projects results in wider regional context, as well as ensure the practical verification and feedback of the Platform products and activities.

Platform will allow to extend the scope of the Planning Forum participants outside the single projects partnership by involving representatives from all BSR countries (including Russia), as well as other authorities involved in the practical elaboration of maritime spatial plans (e.g., from Germany, Finland, Poland etc.).

Planning Forum will take the form in periodical 3-4 meetings (also kick-off?) according to the themes deriving from the Platform synthesis process and other Platform`s thematic activities.

*The representatives of Planning Forum – **Platform partners** + MSP practioners to be attracted as **Platforms Associated Partners**; their travel & accommodation covered by Platform:*

1. SE: SwAM
2. FI: Ministry of Environment + regions
3. EE: Ministry of Interior
4. LV: MoEPRD
5. LT: Ministry of Environment
6. RU: Ermark Institute in St.Petersburg
7. PL: Ministry of Marine Economy and Inland Navigation + Maritime Offices + MIG
8. GE: BSH + states
9. DK: DMA + AaU

**Group of Activities 3.4.** The **Baltic MSP Forum** in 2021 (tentatively in June) as grand-event of the Platform. It will create suitable fora for the discussion, adjustment and dissemination of the Platform results, as well as will provide opportunity to engage, share and build knowledge, exchange best practice and interact with others involved in MSP and marine issues allowing for comprehensive debates reflecting the voices of various stakeholders from different parts of the region and beyond. It will bring together practitioners and researchers interested in MSP, as well as policy makers and stakeholders involved in marine and coastal activities.

#### WP 4. Increasing the visibility of the Platform within and outside the BSR

##### **Group of Activities 4.1.: Outreaching other relevant networks**

Contribution to Interreg BSR Programme events and communication, as well as contribution to other relevant events – an active participation and contribution (e.g., stand, seminar, representation etc.) to the events organized by EC, IOC-UNESCO etc. (European Maritime Day, EUSBSR Annual Forums, MSP conferences etc.) within and outside the BSR.

##### **Group of Activities 4.2.: Platform`s visibility package**

Communication materials (& tools) to support visibility and dissemination efforts. Dissemination and finding appropriate formats for communicating is very much linked with the MSP process and stakeholder involvement format, therefore finding appropriate ways for communicating the Platform results will be part of Platform`s daily communication. Potential outcomes – Platform`s visual identity (logo & common graphic design, flyer, presentation template, roll-up, webpage etc.), unified layout of the main Platform outputs / content documents and their promotional materials, other communication/demonstration tools.

#### Composition of the Platform:

The results of the ongoing (or recently accomplished) projects will be the core essence for the Platform:

##### **Interreg BSR Programme projects:**

- Baltic LINES – Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans
- Baltic RIM – Baltic Sea Region Integrated Maritime Cultural Heritage Management
- Baltic InteGrid – Integrated Baltic Offshore wind electricity grid development
- Baltic Blue Growth – Installing full scale mussel farming in the Baltic Sea
- Land-Sea-Act - Land-Sea Interactions Advancing Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Coastal Areas

##### **Other EU-funded projects:**

- Baltic SCOPE and Pan Baltic Scope
- MUSES – Multi-Use in European Seas
- BONUS BASMATI – Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Ecosystem Services
- BONUS BALTSPEACE – Integration challenges in MSP in the BSR

**Other relevant activities to be considered within the Platform:**

- Update of the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020
- Adjustment of the VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Baltic Sea Region
- Update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan concerning MSP
- Existing MSP processes around the Baltic Sea
- Revision of EUSSBR Action Plan after 2020
- HELCOM HOLAS

**Indicative main milestones of Platform**

**Start:** Sept/Oct 2019 **End by:** Sept/Oct 2021

**Platform kick off** - together or back-to-back with Pan Baltic Scope final event in Nov2019

**Planning Forum** meetings (3-4), if possible, back-to-back with H-V MSP WG meetings

**Thematic workshops** (3-4-5) = up to proposals

**MSP Forum** in June 2021

**Budget**

The total budget for a project platform can be up to EUR 1,000,000 (or less).